

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-2, 4-12, 15-26, 28-30 and 32-36 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 12 and 25 have been amended. The title of the application has been amended. Formal drawings for FIG. 1-12 have been submitted. No new matter is being added by way of this amendment.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicant's representative Thomas A. Hassing (Reg. No. 36,159) spoke with Examiner Garcia during a telephone call on January 13, 2010, to discuss the formal drawings, the amended title, and proposed claim amendments to Claims 1, 12 and 25 and the scope of the prior art. The Examiner accepted the formal drawings and the amended title, suggested additional claim language, and indicated that the proposed claim amendments plus the additional claim language would appear to further prosecution over the prior art.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner is objecting to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing the limitation of "having a ramp up toward an external side". In response, Applicant has submitted amended formal drawings to more clearly show a ramp feature forming a lower surface of an opening having a ramp up toward an external side. Support for the ramp feature may be found in the specification at least in paragraph [0020] and in Figures 6-7. As may be seen at least in formal Figures 6-7, the lower surface formed by disk guide 341 forms a ramp up feature extending from side 336 facing the optical drive

302 toward the external side 338 as shown right-to-left on Figure 7. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the formal drawings fully comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) and the objection should be removed.

SPECIFICATION

In accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, the title of the present application has been amended to read: Integration Of Structural And Cosmetic Bezel Having A Disk Guide For A Slot Loading Optical Drive.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner is rejecting Claims 1-2, 4-12, 15-26, 28-30 and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Zapalski et al., U.S. Pat. App. 2004/0042623 ("Zapalski") in view of Kan-o, U.S. Patent No. 6,910,217, ("Kan-o") further in view of Selby et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,793,728 ("Selby"). Applicant has amended Claims 1, 12 and 25 to recite a ramp feature forming a lower surface of an opening having a ramp up toward an external side to point the optical disk downward into an optical drive during injection and to point the optical disk upward during ejection. As noted by the Examiner, neither Zapalski nor Kan-o disclose or fairly suggest a disk guide wherein the disk guide includes a ramp feature forming a lower surface of an opening having a ramp up toward an external side.

With respect to Selby, the Examiner asserts that Selby discloses ramp-like guide features placed on both top and bottom sides of a loading slot 28, and specifically with a blocking shoe 46 forming an inclined surface 50 (Office Action, page 7, lines 1-8). However, Applicant respectfully submits that Selby does not disclose or fairly suggest a

ramp feature forming a lower surface of an opening having a ramp up toward an external side. Fig. 4 of Selby discloses an elongated door frame 30 which defines an elongated narrow slot 32 (column 2, lines 63-66), but Selby provides no disclosure or suggestion of a lower surface of an opening having a ramp up toward an external side.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that there would have been no teaching, suggestion or motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Zapalski with Kan-o and Selby to produce the device of amended independent Claims 1, 12, and 25 and the rejection should be removed.

Dependent Claims 2, 4-11, 15-24, 26, 28-30 and 32-36 depend from amended independent Claims 1, 12, and 25, and thus inherit all of the limitations of the amended independent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2, 4-11, 15-24, 26, 28-30 and 32-36 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as given above for the amended independent Claims 1, 12 and 25.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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